

February 21, 2017

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing this letter as a personal attest to the positive impact, collaboration with state agencies and return on investment that Community Plans have to the state of Connecticut. Without the states small investment to Local Community Plans the structure of Local Early Childhood Councils could be in jeopardy.

I have been the Community Coordinator/ Director of Naugatuck Partnership for Children since 2009 and most recently a member of the planning team of Local Early Childhood Council's since 2016. Our councils on the local level are the voice and backbone that carry the message and hard work of our local communities to the state level for increased partnership and decision-making.

Naugatuck's most recent study done in January 2017 puts our return on investment at over \$1,319,000 to our community of over 35,000 people. This money invested in our youngest children and families would not be possible without our local early childhood council. Because of work of the council, our community has supported 45 free preschool slots to 4 year old Naugatuck residents that parents fall under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level with a full day, full year preschool experience at no cost to the families. We support 36 additional preschool slots through our School Readiness Grant that provides a sliding scale of pay for 3 and 4 year old Naugatuck residents. In addition, Naugatuck Partnership for Children has joined forces with the Valley Diaper Bank to diaper 25 Naugatuck children with a quarter of their diapering need for an entire year. Supported 376 people with basic needs and provide before and after school programs at our local elementary and Intermediate schools at no charge to families to bring enrichment to children and a safe place for our students.

In addition to work we do to support families, our connection with our school system has never been stronger. Collectively we are writing our new transition to kindergarten plan that bridges our preschool and elementary schools for better alignment; doing joint professional developments with preschool and kindergarten teachers and supporting our most vulnerable children with a Ready, Set, Go! Preschool program during the month of July to support our youngest learners that have never had the opportunity of a preschool experience with a full day, five day a week preschool experience before they venture to kindergarten.

This is just the tip of a long list of services and support Local Early Childhood Councils do to support our communities. I trust that the information provided will be of assistance and will be happy to provide further information, if required.

In support of Community Planning to stay in the Governors budget!

Jill Mahoney
Director- Naugatuck Partnership for Children

